

**Statement of the United States
317th Session of the ILO Governing Body
Geneva, Switzerland
Agenda Item 4**

**Follow-up to the resolution concerning the measures on the
subject of Myanmar adopted under article 33 of the ILO Constitution
by the Conference at its 101st Session (2012)**

We thank the office for its report, for its analysis of developments, and for the ongoing and outstanding work of the ILO Liaison Officer. The ILO reports and analysis remain the best and most reliable source of information on labor issues in the country.

Progress on labor issues is impressive and contributes to progress on broader political and economic reforms. We would like to highlight the initiatives made to address forced labor in numerous regions, particularly in ethnic minority areas; new efforts to increase awareness of rights and responsibilities under the law; the release from military service of under-age recruits; and many steps taken by the government to build up its own capacity to apply the law. We commend the government's continued efforts to realize its commitment, made in the March 2012 Memorandum of Understanding, to eliminate forced labor by 2015.

While we welcome the progress that has been made, many challenges remain. Forced labor has been reduced, quite dramatically in some areas, but still exists in conflict areas and in several other circumstances noted in the report. The number of prosecutions of perpetrators has risen substantially and we look forward to the development of a fully established justice system.

The United States welcomes the ongoing political and economic reforms, including on labor rights, and we are committed to deepening our cooperation as the democratic transition continues to progress.

Given that change is ongoing, it is important for the ILO to continue to assess progress.

We support the point for decision as amended and outlined by Deputy Director-General Vines.